

NEWS FROM ED MARKEY

United States Congress

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Massachusetts Seventh District

**CONTACT: Israel Klein, Mark Bayer
or Michal Freedhoff
(202) 225-2836**

MARKEY OUTRAGED AT DHS FAILURE TO 'CONNECT THE DOTS' ON THE WHITE HOUSE AND SENATE RICIN ATTACKS

WASHINGTON, DC - Rep. Ed Markey (D-MA), a senior member of the House Select Committee on Homeland Security, released the following statement today regarding the apparent lack of communication between the White House and other law enforcement agencies, the Department of Homeland Security, postal employees, and the U.S. Congress regarding a ricin attack in November 2003. Rep. Markey grilled Admiral James Loy and John Brennan today at a Homeland Security hearing; both are senior Department of Homeland Security officials on this lapse in communication.

"If it is true that the White House received a letter with ricin in it and did not formally notify other potential victims or targets of such terrorism such as postal workers, mail handlers, or the US Congress, I believe they made a serious mistake. We cannot hope to thwart terrorists who use the U.S. mail system and other means to threaten our homeland security without all the facts.

"Congress created a Homeland Security Department precisely because of the failure of our existing intelligence, security, and law enforcement agencies to share information, cooperate with one another, and 'connect the dots' that might help avert a terrorist attack. It is appalling that the lives of innocent people were put at risk when the precautions we are now taking against ricin could have been implemented on the basis of what the Bush Administration apparently knew 3 months ago."

Additional information is available at Rep. Markey's website, <http://www.house.gov/markey>.

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